

Gymnasts to face powerful ISU

By Larry Stunkel

One of the longest winning streaks in collegiate gymnastics will be on the line Saturday when the UNL gymnast team hosts defending national and Big 8 champions Iowa State University (ISU) at 2 p.m. in Henzlik Hall gymnasium.

The Cyclones have won two national championships in the last three years and five straight Big 8 titles.

"Fantastic" was the only word Husker Coach Francis Allen used to describe the Cyclones.

"I'd have to go out on a limb and say they'll be national champions this year," he added.

One of the reasons for Iowa State's continued domination of the conference, according to Allen, is its recruiting program.

"Ed Gagniat (ISU coach) has one of the best recruiting programs in the nation," Allen said.

For the season, the Cyclones have posted a 2-0 dual record, including a victory over Southern Illinois University, also considered a national contender.

Top individuals for ISU are all-around performers Mark Graham, Duane West, and Bob Roth. Graham and West finished second and third

respectively in the all-around competition at last year's Big 8 meet.

This will be the first time these teams have met since last fall, when ISU barely escaped upset at the hands of the Huskers in the Big 8 Invitational.

"They're a much better team than they were last fall," Allen said.

"But if we had the team we did then," he added, "it would be a tight, close meet. Now it will take the best effort we can come up with to beat them." He was referring to the loss of all-around performer Gene Mackie because of an injury.

Freshman Duane West, whom Allen calls the second best floor exercise man in the conference, will return to competition in that event, after recovering from a sprained ankle.

Other Huskers to watch Saturday will be Gary Jeurink in all-around competition, Pete Studenski on the rings, Jim Unger in floor exercise, Gary Duff on the parallel bars and Steve Dickey on the side horse.

The meet also will mark the Huskers' last home meet of the season and the last to be held at Henzlik. According to Allen, the larger crowds have made it necessary to move the meets to the Coliseum.



sports shorts

The UNL women's swim team will meet Iowa State University at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool. The UNL team defeated Concordia State College, 99-22, Wednesday, taking first place in every event.

Huskers Frosty Anderson and Ritch Bahe earned first and second team berths, respectively, on the University Division Academic All-American football team. The team was selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Fullback Ralph Powell became the seventh Husker to be picked in the National Football League draft. The Atlanta Falcons selected him Wednesday in the 13th round.

Triple jeopardy

More than pride will be at stake tonight and Saturday when the UNL wrestling team closes its home schedule with three straight dual meets.

The Huskers will take on conference rival Missouri University at 7:30 p.m. tonight, Southern Illinois University at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and then Colorado University at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. All three meets will be in the Coliseum.

After coming from two straight dual losses to conference teams, the Huskers will be trying to improve their 3-4 record.

"It will be a matter of pride," said Coach Orval Borgialli. Posting wins this weekend are not only vital for a winning dual season for the Huskers, but would aid UNL recruiting, he said.

Borgialli also said the team will need the wins individually in order to obtain top seeds for the Big 8 tourney in March.

According to Borgialli, Southern Illinois will be the toughest of the three teams this weekend.

"They wrestle the toughest schedule in the nation," he said, "and individually they're all good."

Missouri will be paced by 190-pound senior Tom Cook, who placed third in last year's Big 8 meet, and Mike Fowler at 118 pounds.

Borgialli called Colorado a young team. The Buffs will be led by Mark Mayer at 150 pounds, who finished third in the conference last year, and 126-pound Grant Kusuno, who finished fourth last year in the Big 8.

People's champ Ali triumphs, breathes new life into boxing

Omaha's Civic Auditorium was the scene of an unusual sporting event Monday night. It was packed with 4,000 people waiting to see a heavyweight boxing match between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

What was unusual about the fight was that it was not live, but on closed-circuit television. The show would last less than an hour, yet fans had paid from \$8 to \$12 to see it.

As the prefight ceremonies began, it became apparent why the fans were there. They had come to see Ali. When he entered the ring, a sizeable majority cheered wildly, even though he couldn't hear them. Others wanted desperately for Ali to lose.

Ali won by unanimous decision, but that probably wasn't the most important aspect of the night. What was important was that Ali had aroused the feelings of so many people.

Boxing was ebbing when Ali burst onto the scene in 1964 and captured the world championship. The sport suddenly became important.

Ali proclaimed himself "the people's champion." His incessant speeches on virtually every topic inspired adulation in millions, bitter hatred in countless others. It was difficult to be middle-of-the-road in one's feelings toward Ali. Interest in Ali, whether pro or con, meant interest in boxing, and the sport regained its prominence.

For the next three years, he danced around the ring with the "Ali shuffle" and blazing speed that had won him the championship. He defended his title nine times.

Then, in 1967, the World Boxing Assoc. and most state boxing commissions stripped Ali of his title when he refused military inductions. They defied the American belief that a man was innocent until proven guilty.

Ali had refused service because he said he was a Black Muslim minister. The U.S. Supreme Court eventually upheld Ali's stand.

But it was too late to repair the damages. Ali had lost some of the prime years of his boxing career. Not until 1971 did he get a chance to regain his crown. He lost that fight to Frazier, and he hasn't had another shot since.

dennis onnen press box review

Now it appears his time has come. After the win over Frazier, he is the logical No. 1 contender for George Foreman's heavyweight crown.

The only problem is that Foreman has been extremely reluctant to defend his title. Since he won it early last year, he has defended it only once, against someone named Joe Roman. Ali could be in a rocking chair before Foreman gives him his chance.

Ali is 32-years-old, and his days as a boxer are nearing an end. For the good of the sport, Foreman immediately should agree to meet Ali this year, before it's too late.

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